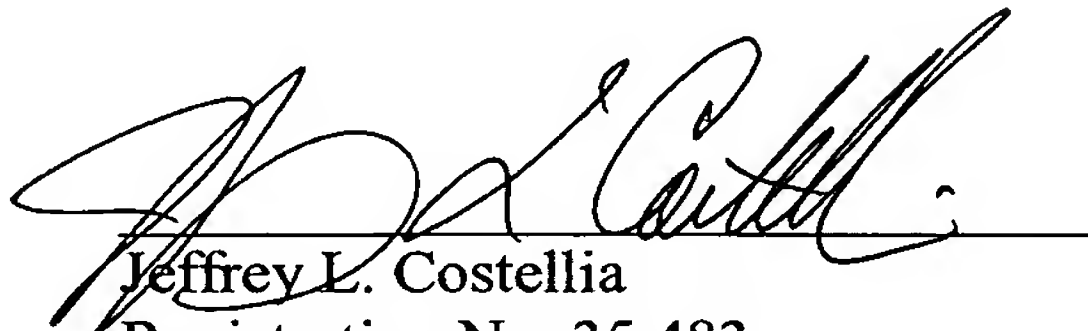


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correct the multiple dependencies therein and minor punctuation issues..

Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Costellia  
Registration No. 35,483

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128

(202) 585-8000